

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(with complete listing)

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~non-temporarily~~ coupling a ~~plurality of riser[s]~~ or umbilical[s] ~~having lower ends fixed to an area of the sea floor to a~~ moored floating body vessel having a hull with a keel and ~~moored generally above said area for use during everyday ordinary vessel operation~~, the method comprising the steps of,

operatively coupling a lower end of a tubular member to a subsea well,

~~enduringly longitudinally~~ suspending an upper end of said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ from a[n] first elevation above said hull, and

laterally supporting said tubular member at a second elevation at said hull, said second elevation fixed with respect to said hull. ~~risers or umbilicals at points along the perimeter of said hull.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
laterally supporting said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ below the waterline.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
laterally supporting said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation of said keel.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
laterally supporting said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ at an outboard-facing surface[s] of said hull.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
laterally supporting said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ at an inboard-facing surface[s] of said hull.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,

laterally supporting said tubular member risers or umbilicals at a surface[s] of a moonpool in said hull. vessel.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of,  
receiving a portion of said tubular member in a bearing assembly fixed to said hull at said second elevation.

laterally supporting said tubular member by said bearing assembly, providing a bearing at each of said points, and

allowing longitudinal axial movement of said tubular member riser relative to said bearing assembly. vessel.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7[8] further comprising the step of,  
allowing side entry of one of said tubular member risers or umbilicals into at least one of said bearing assembly. keel guides.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7[8] further comprising the step of,  
allowing vertical entry of one of said tubular member risers or umbilicals into at least one of said bearing assembly. keel guides.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein said suspending~~ further comprising[es] the step[s] of,

tensioning said tubular member. risers or umbilicals, and

allowing said risers or umbilicals to move axially with respect to said vessel.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
suspending said tubular member risers or umbilicals with at a generally vertical orientation.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
suspending said upper end of said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ from an elevation  
above the waterline.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
suspending said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ by a spring.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of, ~~A method  
for non-temporarily coupling a plurality of risers or umbilicals having lower ends fixed to an  
area of the sea floor to a floating vessel having a submerged hull with a keel and moored  
generally above said area for use during everyday ordinary vessel operation, the method  
comprising the steps of,~~

~~enduringly suspending said risers or umbilicals from an elevation above said keel, and~~

receiving said tubular member in a vertical passage formed through said hull, and

~~laterally supporting said tubular member ~~risers or umbilicals~~ in said vertical passage[s]  
formed through said hull.~~

17-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A floating body ~~vessel~~ comprising,

a submerged buoyant hull having a keel,

a column having a lower end coupled to said hull, said column extending above the  
waterline,

a deck coupled to an upper end of said column,

a mooring device having an upper end coupled to said hull and a lower end coupled to the  
seabed,

a bearing assembly ~~keel guide~~ having a vertically oriented generally cylindrical passage therein and fixed ~~coupled~~ to an exterior ~~outboard facing~~ surface of said hull,

a tensioner coupled to said floating body ~~vessel~~ and disposed at an elevation above said hull, and

a tubular member ~~riser or umbilical~~ having a lower end operatively coupled to a subsea well ~~the seabed~~ and an upper end enduringly longitudinally suspended by ~~coupled to~~ said tensioner, said tubular member ~~riser or umbilical~~ passing within said passage of said bearing assembly and laterally supported by said bearing assembly. ~~keel guide.~~

24. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 wherein, said mooring device is generally vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull.

25. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 wherein, said tubular member ~~riser or umbilical~~ is generally vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull.

26. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 ~~further comprising wherein,~~  
a ~~keel joint disposed between said riser or umbilical and said keel guide, said keel joint having a bearing disposed adjacent to said riser or umbilical, wherein said bearing~~ assembly is designed and arranged to provide lateral support to said tubular member ~~riser or umbilical~~ while allowing said tubular member ~~riser or umbilical~~ to move in a longitudinal direction within said bearing assembly. ~~keel guide.~~

27-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 wherein,

said bearing assembly includes a longitudinal keel guide ~~has a slot~~ which communicates with said passage and which is designed and arranged to allow side entry of said tubular member, ~~riser or umbilical~~.

31. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly ~~keel guide~~ is disposed at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation of said keel.

32. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly ~~keel guide~~ is disposed at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation of said upper end of said mooring device.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 wherein, said tensioner is disposed above the waterline.

35. (Currently amended) The floating body ~~vessel~~ of claim 23 wherein, said tensioner is disposed on said deck.

36. (Currently amended) A floating body ~~vessel~~ comprising,  
a submerged buoyant hull having a keel,  
a column having a lower end coupled to said hull, said column extending above the waterline,  
a deck coupled to an upper end of said column,  
a mooring device having an upper end coupled to said hull and a lower end coupled to the seabed,  
first and second apertures each being vertically formed through said hull and having a closed vertical periphery,

first and second tensioners each coupled to said floating body vessel and disposed at an elevation above said hull,

a first tubular member riser or umbilical having a lower end in fluid communication with a subsea well coupled to the seabed and an upper end suspended by ~~enduringly coupled to~~ said first tensioner, said first tubular member riser or umbilical passing within said first aperture, and

a second tubular member riser or umbilical having a lower end in fluid communication with a subsea well coupled to the seabed and an upper end suspended by ~~enduringly coupled to~~ said second tensioner, said second tubular member riser or umbilical passing within said second aperture.

37. (Currently amended) The floating body vessel of claim 36 wherein,  
said mooring device is generally vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) The floating body vessel of claim 36 further comprising,  
a bearing assembly keel joint disposed between said first tubular member riser or umbilical and said first aperture, said bearing assembly keel joint designed and arranged to provide lateral support to said first tubular member riser or umbilical while allowing said first tubular member riser or umbilical to move in a longitudinal direction within said first aperture.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) The floating body vessel of claim 36 wherein,  
said first tensioner is disposed above the waterline.

42. (Currently amended) The floating body vessel of claim 36 wherein,  
said first tensioner is disposed on said deck.

43-44. (Cancelled)

45. (New) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,  
said bearing assembly is disposed at an outboard-facing surface of said hull.
46. (New) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,  
said bearing assembly is disposed at an inboard-facing surface of said hull.
47. (New) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,  
said bearing assembly is disposed in a moonpool in said hull.